

# Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member  
Mike Sullivan



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## Residents of District E,

School resumed across the city the week of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. That means that we have seen a sudden increase in traffic around our schools, and on our major thoroughfares. In anticipation of this, I worked with the Houston Police Department and my council staff to monitor traffic at the three major high schools that are in my district. As I monitored Kingwood High School, Autumn Jodzio patrolled around Kingwood Park High School and Lauren Doak watched the traffic at Clear Lake High School/UH Clear Lake/Clear Lake 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Falcon Pass Elementary. We reported our observations to HPD, who has agreed to work with us to ensure that our children can get to school safely, and parents to work without unnecessary congestion and delays. I expect that any traffic delays you encounter in the mornings will work themselves out in the next week or two.

I spent the last two weeks of August visiting the Houston Fire Department stations in my district. This is not unusual for me, as I try to do this on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. It is a great experience to sit down with these fire fighters and EMS personnel to hear what is on their minds. They have a wealth of knowledge for us to draw on, and with most of them having 20+ years of service to this department, they have "seen it all." Frankly, I could not be more proud of the Houston Fire Department, as I have worked side by side with them since I was elected in 2007. If you ever see these men and women out on a scene, or just at the grocery store, take a minute to tell them hello and that you appreciate what they do for us.

On the subject of the fire department, Mayor Parker recently nominated Terry Garrison (from Phoenix, AZ and Oceanside, CA) as fire chief. Houston City Council is expected to vote on his nomination on September 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the last major appointment that the mayor is expected to fill. Other departments, such as police, legal, human resources, public works and engineering and housing are all new and appointed by the mayor earlier this year.

As I travel around the city, I receive numerous compliments on the newsletter and high level of customer service that my office gives. I want to thank Monica, Karina, Autumn and Lauren for helping me provide the very best constituent services possible. "Thanks, ladies!!!"

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

**Mike Sullivan**  
Council Member

## Mills Branch Sidewalk Ribbon Cutting

Council Member Sullivan hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony last month to celebrate the opening of the newly constructed Mills Branch sidewalk. Lisa Lackey, Principal of Shadow Forest Elementary and Bethany Harper, Assistant Principal of Shadow Forest Elementary joined Council Member Sullivan, H.I.S.D. school board member Dan Huberty and area neighbors during the ceremony as they have anxiously awaited the additional walking and biking space for the community. The City of Houston began construction on the \$350,000 and 4,400-foot sidewalk late June and crews were completed just in time for school to start.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the Public Works Department for their work and making sure it was completed by the beginning of the school year.



*Council Member Sullivan cuts the ribbon officially opening the Mills Branch sidewalk.*

## Back to School Traffic

Last month, Council Member Sullivan monitored the traffic congestion surrounding Kingwood High School to make sure the flow was not impeded due to the increased volume of back to school traffic. The Houston Police Department's Mobile Response Team monitored and directed the traffic as well to ensure safe and manageable commutes for students, parents and other community members. While Council Member Sullivan monitored the area around Kingwood High School, North Sector Manager Autumn Jodzio worked with HPD to observe the flow of cars around Kingwood Park High School.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Captain Carl Driskell for coordinating traffic plans and officers for the Kingwood community as well as Kingwood Substation Captain Bryan Bennett.

## Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony



*Girl Scout Emilie Gentry and Council Member Sullivan*

Council Member Sullivan had the honor of recognizing Girl Scout Emilie Nicole Gentry during a ceremony on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Gentry earned the Girl Scouts of America Gold Award, which is the highest recognition in Girl Scouting. She is a distinguished member of Troop 3612 of the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, and her commitment to excellence, scholarship and service to her community make her one of the reasons Houston is such a great city.

Council Member Sullivan congratulates her for earning this award and for continuing her loyalty to the San Jacinto Council.

## Rachel Zientek Bigtop Fundraiser and BBQ

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Kingwood and Humble community gathered together to raise money for the Zientek family whose daughter, Rachel, suffered many burns and serious injuries as a result of a plane crash in Alaska. Her father, Mike Zientek, is a Houston Police Department officer in Kingwood and has taken time off to help his daughter. Council Member Sullivan joined several of Mr. Zientek's HPD colleagues at the fundraiser that featured live music, barbecue and kids activities at Kingwood Town Center Park. Almost \$25,000 was raised to help the family with Rachel's medical expenses.

The district E office continues to keep Rachel and her family in their thoughts and prayers as she continues on her path to healing.

## Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce 5K

On Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> Council Member Sullivan participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lake Houston 10k/5k and Wellness Fest at Kings Harbor presented by Memorial Hermann Northeast. The Community Health and Wellness Committee planned the event to promote healthy, fun activities in the Lake Houston area. Many from the community came out to support the event, which not only included the run, but also featured American Idol winner Sundance Head, an awards ceremony, vendor booths and a special appearance from Dynamo Diesel from the Houston Dynamo. Over 675 runners participated with some coming as far away as Maine, Louisiana and New Mexico.

Council Member Sullivan supports the work and the planning that was done by the Community Health and Wellness Committee and looks forward to similar events in the future. He thanks Stephanie Kiouses with the Mayor's Office of Special Events and the Public Works Department for the assistance and personnel provided the day of the race.



*Council Member Sullivan, Dr. Kyle Buchan, Louis Smith and Dan Huberty*

## Kingwood Executive Group Meeting



*CEO of Plains States Bank Milan Saunders and Council Member Sullivan*

Council Member Sullivan spoke at the Kingwood Executive Group meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> about a number of issues affecting the Kingwood area, as well as how Mayor Parker is moving forward with her administration. Kingwood Executive Group is an organization composed of business leaders from throughout the community. They meet weekly and have speakers who address various topics of interest.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the group for inviting him, and especially appreciates Milan Saunders asking him to speak.

## Turner Stadium Tour

Humble ISD recently renovated Turner Stadium to meet demands of the growing community. Construction crews spent more than a year remodeling the facility totaling \$19.9 million worth of improvements funded in part by a bond package from 2008. Council Member Sullivan was given the opportunity to see these improvements during a tour of the stadium last month. These improvements include seating for over 10,000 people, a newly resurfaced track, a steeplechase, open air ticket booths, a new field house, a two-story press box, concession stands, upgraded restroom facilities as well as improved lighting, parking and entrance sidewalks.

Turner Stadium is officially open for football season this school year.



*Council Member Sullivan and Humble I.S.D. School Board Member Dave Martin*

## Breakfast at HFD Station 103



*Council Member Sullivan and station 103's B-shift*

Council Member Sullivan had breakfast with the B-shift at fire station #103 on August 20<sup>th</sup>. During his visit, he was able to update them on the new 4-wheel drive ATV that will soon be sent to Kingwood so crews can respond to calls on the greenbelts, in the parks, etc. He thanks the fire fighters for hosting him and for sharing information with him about their work.

## Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site. Demolition contract was awarded on May 12, 2010. The contractor completed demolition and clean up on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin by the first of the new year.
- Three new Houston Police Department officers have been added to the Kingwood substation effective May 31<sup>st</sup>, one of which is a bike officer.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills at North Park Drive and West Lake Houston at Kingwood Drive are complete.
- Street sweeping crews will service Kingwood during the month of September. Trucks will be servicing the roads between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The work should take about 2-3 weeks to complete.



## Grace Community Church Service

Last month, Council Member Sullivan attended a service at Grace Community Church located at 14505 Gulf Freeway. Council Member Sullivan has worked with Pastor Steve Riggle and Pastor Garrett Booth on a variety of different issues affecting the church, which lies within District E. The church is also a supporter of the City of Houston and supports and hosts the funeral and memorial services for emergency responders who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Pastor Riggle and Pastor Booth for having him and looks forward to attending future services.

## Sagemont Community Center

Design work for the Sagemont Community Center and Park is underway. Council Member Sullivan has been in discussion with the city's Parks Department and looks forward to the construction of the new facility for his constituents. Construction is anticipated to begin Fall of 2011.

The community center, which is being modeled after the Townwood Community Center, will accommodate many social gatherings and can be used as a meeting space for community clubs and organizations. As design work progresses, updates will be published in Council Member Sullivan's newsletter.



*The Sagemont Park Concept Design is modeled after the Townwood Community Center located off of Highway 288.*

## Office Depot Foundation Backpack Donation

Last month, the Office Depot Foundation donated more than 3,675 backpacks through its National Backpack Program to children served by non-profit organizations and schools in the Houston area. The Foundation presented the backpacks during a special "Back-to-School Backpack Celebration" at the Office Depot store located at 10525 Gulf Freeway.

Maria Bolanos from the Mayor's Office of Citizens Assistance accepted 500 backpacks on behalf of the City of Houston. Council Member Sullivan supported the Foundation and their initiative with a certificate of special recognition for their outstanding contribution and to celebrate the National Backpack Program's 10-year anniversary.

Since its inception in 2001, the Office Depot Foundation has been able to donate more than 2.3 million backpacks through its National Backpack Program.

## San Jacinto College Expansion

The San Jacinto College – South Campus is expanding to meet the demands of the growing student population. Construction on the new allied health building and new student center will increase the size of the campus by almost 200,000 square feet. The new allied health building will include nine areas of scientific study and be built to LEED certified qualifications. The student center will expand resources for students by making staff support, testing and financial aid, student development and administration services more available to them. The expansion project is made possible by a \$295 million bond referendum, which was passed by voters in May 2008.

Chris Clark from the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District and Marie Flickinger, Chair of the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees met with Council Member Sullivan and Mark Loethen from the city's Public Works Department regarding the expansion of the college, which lies in District E. Currently the MUD district is interested in increasing services to meet the demands of the growth of the community and the expansion of the college.

Council Member Sullivan looks forward to the college improvements and the increased amount of resources for students in the South Belt community.

## Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Work has begun on the outdoor lighting for Law Park.
- METRO's newly expanded South Point Park and Ride Lot is open and has an additional 390 parking spaces available for it's patrons.
- Street sweeping crews will service the South Belt area during the month of September. Trucks will be servicing the roads between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The work should take about 2-3 weeks to complete.

## CCISD Back-to-School Rally



*CCISD School Board Member Ken Baliker and Council Member Sullivan talk before the rally.*

Over 4,900 Clear Creek Independent School District faculty and staff gathered at Grace Community Church on August 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the new school year at the district's annual "Back to School Rally." This year the attendees celebrated the district's exemplary school ratings given to them by the Texas Education Agency and recognized those who "had a hand in it." Several teachers were acknowledged for making a profound impact in a student's life while other departments were highlighted for making the everyday operations of the district so successful.

CCISD is the second largest school district in Texas to receive exemplary ratings.

## CCISD Proclamation Presentation

Council Member Sullivan had the privilege of presenting the Clear Creek Independent School District's Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith and the CCISD school board with a proclamation on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The proclamation recognizes September 2010 as "Clear Creek Independent School District Exemplary Month," officially acknowledging that its 41 schools and 37,500 students have in fact reached the highest academic rating in the State of Texas because of the Clear Lake community. As a former school board member, Council Member Sullivan encourages its citizens to participate in activities that encourage learning for all and congratulates all of those who "had a hand" in each child's success.



*Dr. Greg Smith, Ken Baliker, District E South Sector Manager Lauren Doak, Charles Pond, Win Weber, Ann Hammond, Council Member Sullivan and Dee Scott in the center*

## Space Center Rotary Luncheon



*Space Center Rotary member Sheryl Berg and Council Member Sullivan*

Council Member Sullivan attended the Space Center Rotary Club's weekly luncheon on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting featured Mary Wood from Plastic Pollution Texas to discuss a proposed Texas plastic bottle recycle bill for 2011. Plastic Pollution Texas is a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to educate and promote the wise use of plastics in our state.

## Dinner at HFD Station 71

Council Member Sullivan spent much of last month visiting fire stations in his district, one of which was station 71 located at 15200 Space Center in Clear Lake. He had the opportunity to speak with the A-shift during dinner about a variety of topics including information going on within his council district. He also was able to spend time with the fire fighters after they had lost one of their own. Fire Fighter Johnnie Williams unexpectedly passed away after sustaining injuries in a motorcycle accident on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Council Member Sullivan attended Fire Fighter Williams' funeral, and the district E staff continue to keep the fire fighters at station 71 in their thoughts in prayers.

Council Member Sullivan thanks station 71 and the A-shift for hosting him for dinner and for always extending their hospitality.

## Bring the Shuttle Home

NASA will be retiring its fleet of space shuttles within the next year. Once NASA completes its last shuttle mission, these three orbiters will be decommissioned and placed on permanent display at selected museums or science centers across the United States. The competition is fierce as one of the orbiters has already been designated to the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar Hazy Center, leaving only two vehicles for more than 15 locations, including Space Center Houston. Council Member Sullivan urges you to support Space Center Houston and the acquisition of one of the shuttles by visiting [www.bringtheshuttlehome.com](http://www.bringtheshuttlehome.com). As Space Center Houston is the epicenter of human space travel, you are encouraged to write your Congressmen, Senators and President Barack Obama urging them to select Space Center Houston.

## Ellington Field Commissary Sale

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind his constituents that a commissary sale will be held September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup> at Ellington Field located at 147<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (TANG) Ellington Field Bldg 1356, 10211 Greig Avenue. The commissary, affiliated with Brooks Medical Center, will sell bulk items and will be open 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Ellington Field supports the operations of the United States military and hosts this sale every year.

For more information please contact Ralph Maastricht at (210) 652.5102.

## Camino South Clean-Up Day

The Clear Lake City Community Association is hosting a Community Clean up Day in Camino South on September 25<sup>th</sup>, National Public Land Day, and has asked for your help! Volunteers are needed to trim the bushes along the Harris County Flood Control Ditch on Sea Liner Drive. Council Member Sullivan invites the community to join him and the CLCCA as they work together to beautify the community.

CLCCA Manager Leslie Alvarez is looking for partners and volunteers. For more information, please contact her at (281) 488.0360.

## Project Updates

- Sylvan Rodriguez Park is currently in the programming phase. Construction is scheduled to begin fiscal year 2012.
- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
- Street sweeping crews will service the Clear Lake area during the month of September. Trucks will be servicing the roads between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The work should take about 2-3 weeks to complete.



## Special Ethics Committee Meeting

As chair of the Special Ethics and Council Governance Committee on Redistricting and Term Limits, Council Member Sullivan conducted a meeting last month to facilitate conversation about town hall meetings focused on redistricting. Due to the increased census numbers, the City of Houston is obligated to add two more council seats next year. Therefore, discussion is being facilitated regarding redistricting and how to add the new districts among the existing ones. Several public town hall meetings will be held throughout the city next year. Members of the committee are currently working with the city's Planning Department on scheduling where and when these town hall meetings may be.

Council Member Sullivan believes it is important to keep this process transparent. Scheduled meetings will be published in this newsletter and e-blasts in the near future.



*Council Member Sullivan questions the city's Planning Department about the scheduling of the meetings.*

## Water Resources Management Committee Meeting



*Council Member Sullivan listens as Mr. Oradat delivers his presentation.*

Council Member Sullivan held a Water Resources Management Committee Meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Members were given a presentation on the Luce Bayou Inter-Basin Transfer Project (LBIT), on the feasibility study on wetland near Lake Houston and on the water quality study on the Lake Houston water after the LBIT project. Council Member Sullivan thanks Gary Oradat, P.E. with the Coastal Water Authority for his presentation.

Council Member Sullivan is chair of the Water Resources Management Committee.

## HPOU General Membership Meeting

Council Member Sullivan attended the Houston Police Officers' Union's monthly board meeting last month. During the meeting, he had the honor of presenting the children of fallen officer Henry Canales with a proclamation and an award. The ceremonial presentation honored Officer Canales for his service to Houston, his dedication to others and his love to his family.

Officer Canales was shot and killed in the line of duty last year while conducting an undercover investigation into the sale of stolen televisions. He was a 16 year veteran of the police department and is survived by his two children Stephanie and Henry Jr. and his wife, Amor.



*Council Member Sullivan, Stephanie Canales, Henry Canales, Jr. and Lt. Scott Dombrowski*

## City of Houston's 174<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration



*NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, Astronaut Walter Cunningham, Council Member Sullivan and NASA Director Mike Coats*

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the City of Houston celebrated its 176<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mayor Annise Parker and Mayor Pro Tem Ann Clutterbuck hosted a birthday celebration at the George R. Brown Convention Center where community leaders gathered together to acknowledge the past several years and recognize those who had a part in it. Several honorees were recognized including NASA's Director Mike Coats and NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. During the event, Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to recognize Director Coats with a special award granted to him for his outstanding leadership at NASA and his continued dedication to Houston. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden also received an award for his continued leadership.

Former Astros player Jose Cruz, former City of Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire, Bob McNair and Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr. were all inducted into this year's 2010 Houston Hall of Fame.

## Women of Houston Honored

Mayor Annise Parker and the women of Houston's city council were honored during a reception at Mayor Bob Lanier and Elyse Lanier's home on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The League of Women Voters (LWV) honored the women and celebrated the organization's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and International Women's Equality Day. The LWV is a non-partisan, grassroots organization, which for decades, has promoted political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. Council Member Sullivan attended the ceremony as an invited guest and celebrated the women's achievements among his colleagues.

## GHP Business of Sports Luncheon

The Greater Houston Partnership hosted their "Business of Sports" luncheon last month at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Drayton McLane from the Houston Astros, Timothy Leiweke from the Houston Dynamo, Clyde Drexler from the Houston Rockets and Robert McNair from the Houston Texans were part of a panel to discuss how business and sports are closely related to the economy of the Houston region and nation. Council Member Sullivan joined them and other community leaders at the luncheon to stay ahead of the game and to be informed about the Houston sports franchises.

## Mounted Patrol Donate to Star of Hope



The Houston Police Department's Mounted Patrol Division donated several pallets of soap to the Star of Hope last month after hearing that the organization was in need of the item in order to assist the community. The officers raised over \$600 dollars themselves and were given a donation by Sam's Club in the amount of \$300. Council Member Sullivan participated in the event held at the Star of Hope located at 419 Dowling. He thanks the dedicated officers for their hard work and for coming to the aid of the community when needed most.

## HPD Youth Policy Advisory Council

The Houston Police Department's (HPD) Youth Police Advisory Council (YPAC) is recruiting high school students to interact with Chief of Police Charles A. McClelland, Jr. and other top HPD officials regarding issues affecting youth in schools and communities. A select group of high school students will be chosen for the new school year, to not only address issues of their peers but also to participate in community service projects and attend youth leadership conferences throughout the state. Applications are being accepted now and are due October 1, 2010.

To learn more about how to join YPAC please call (713) 308.3200 or visit [www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/ypac.htm](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/ypac.htm).

## Neighborhood Matching Grant Workshop

Council Member Sullivan would like to notify you of a program that could benefit your neighborhood. The Neighborhood Match Grant Program is designed to help neighborhood groups learn the art of planning and community building through neighborhood projects. The program helps pay for projects that are accessible and beneficial to the community through a partnership between the City of Houston and the organization. The City of Houston's Planning Department is hosting a workshop for all those interested in learning more about the program. It will be held Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center located at 2020 Hermann Drive. No RSVP is required.

For more information please contact Anna Sedillo or Tonya Sawyer at (713) 837.7701.

## Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

Council Member Sullivan will be hosting two town hall meetings this fall for his constituents. Representatives from several city departments will attend to present project updates and to answer questions attendees may have. Please note, due to scheduling conflicts South Belt and Clear Lake residents will have a joint meeting. For more information, please contact Karina Moreno at (832) 393.3008.

North	November 17	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Location TBA
South	October 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	University of Houston – Clear Lake

*\*Please note that the Solid Waste Department will only pick up **Tree Waste** during the month of September.*

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